

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN LAGOS
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 3082

FROM THE SECRETARY TO AMBSSADOR GOHEEN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO
FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE:

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

PRESIDENT CARTER AND I HAVE HAD USEFUL
DISCUSSIONS ON NAMIBIA IN LAGOS WITH GENERAL OBASANJO.
I ALSO MET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF NIGERIA,
BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA AND WITH THE TANZANIAN PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS. WE ALL AGREED
THAT WE HAVE REACHED A CRUCIAL POINT ON NAMIBIA
AND THAT THE PROPOSALS MADE BY THE CONTACT GROUP COME AS
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CLOSE AS WE ARE LIKELY TO COME FOR SOME TIME IN SETTling
THE NAMIBIA DISPUTE PEACEFULLY.

THERE WAS SOME CONCERN EXPRESSED TO US THAT WE SHOULD
TRY ADDITIONAL STEPS TO MEET SWAPO'S CONCERN ON WALVIS
BAY. IN RESPONSE, WE INDICATED THAT WE COULD NOT DECIDE
THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, THE U.S. IS

PREPARED, AT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, PUBLICLY TO STATE A) THAT WALVIS BAY MUST BE A MATTER FOR NEGOTIATION BETWEEN AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA AND, B) THAT IT IS OUR VIEW THAT WALVIS BAY SHOULD, FOR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, GEOGRAPHIC AND ETHNIC REASONS, BE A PART OF NAMIBIA. WE WILL DISCUSS THIS APPROACH SHORTLY WITH SWAPO. WE WILL ALSO CONSULT THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT GROUP IN THE HOPE THAT THEY ALSO WILL TAKE THIS POSITION.

IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH NUJOMA I HOPE YOU WILL IMPRESS UPON HIM THE NEED FOR SWAPO TO AGREE TO THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSALS NOW BEFORE ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS, SUCH AS THE RECENT ASSASSINATION OF CHIEF KAPUUO OR A DECISION BY SOUTH AFRICA TO ADOPT AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, FURTHER COMPLICATES MATTERS. IN MY VIEW SWAPO WOULD BE MAKING A SERIOUS MISTAKE IF IT PASSES UP THE CURRENT PROPOSALS IN THE MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT ITS NEGOTIATING POSITION WILL BE BETTER LATER. WITH WARM REGARDS, SINCERELY, CYRUS R. VANCE. VANCE

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